

# GREENWorks

## Ideas for a Cleaner Environment

A publication of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Concord, NH (603) 271-3710

November 2012

### **You don't have to be the Grinch to be Green this Holiday Season.**

We are in the middle of the holiday season. The time of year when we feast, feast, feast, feast and give big gifts and small gifts in wrapped boxes with ribbons and bows, and we generate tons and tons and tons of waste. The amount of household garbage in the United States can increase by 25 percent between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, an increase of an estimated million tons per day.

The holidays are a special time of year for young and for old, but you don't need to stop the holidays from coming to reduce the impact on our environment. There are a number of ways that all of us can reduce the amount of trash we produce.

When searching for the perfect floofloover, tartookas, whohoopers or gardookas for Johnny or little Cindy Lou, look for the item with minimal packaging and/or made with recycled content. Stay away from the boxes with the shriek squeaks or blinking lights that may be powered by a hidden battery that is full of mercury and circuitry that contains lead solder.

Say "no thank you" to that plastic shopping bag, for thousands and thousands and thousands and thousands of them end up in landfills each year. Better yet, tell the store clerk you were on top of your game and brought reusable bags for all your holiday gift shopping.

And no one remembers the wrapping paper, so use the newspaper or make your own. It only stays on the present for 2.72 seconds once handed to an eager recipient. But at least, don't be a bad banana with a greasy black peel - recycle the wrapping paper. And better yet, use a gift bag that can be reused next year.

The holidays are here and even the Grinch knows you can't stop them from coming. They will come without ribbons. They will come without tags. And they will come without packages, boxes, or bags. But a green holiday can still be fun. Just reduce, reuse and recycle a ton.

Authors Note: References taken from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," written by Dr. Seuss, published in 1957.

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